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Water bills to spike

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore residents could see their monthly water costs climb by about \$16 to \$17 next year as the town prepares for a significant increase in the price it pays for water from Calgary.

The proposed increase was discussed during Strathmore's Sept. 9 Committee of the Whole meeting as council reviewed the draft 2027 Fees Bylaw.

Administration is proposing an increase to the water consumption rate as Calgary prepares to raise the cost charged to municipalities purchasing water through the regional system.

Council heard Calgary is facing significant capital costs tied to its water infrastructure, with part of those costs being passed on to communities that purchase Calgary water.

"This in turn has significant impact to the water purchase price, which we need to account for in the rates we charge to the public," administration told council.

The town is also proposing changes to both the consumption rate and fixed water charges in an attempt to spread the increase more evenly.

The existing system of 11 different water meter sizes would be simplified into three categories.

Coun. Brent Wiley said the impact will be noticeable for residents.

"It's an unfortunate reality that all residents who purchase Calgary water are going to see, I'll use the word, an enormous jump in our monthly water expenses," Wiley said. "The average home is going to see an increase. Our estimate is going to be \$16, \$17 a month in water expenses."

Administration said Strathmore has little ability to avoid the increase because the town purchases its water from Calgary.

The rate currently being proposed is based on the middle of a range provided through discussions with the City of Calgary.

Continued on Page 4



Tourney time

Horseshoe pitchers gathered in Strathmore Sept. 12-13 as the Cottonwoods Courts Horseshoe Pitching Club hosted its third tournament at the club's pitching venue on the Strathmore Ag Society grounds. The local club was established in 2023 by a group of Strathmore area horseshoe enthusiasts with the goal of making the sport accessible to participants of all abilities, from beginners and casual players to competitors pursuing the sport at the local, provincial and national levels. The local club is affiliated with the Alberta Horseshoe Pitching Association (AHPA).

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photo

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Young Strathmore resident aims to collect 4,000 cans for veterans

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Eleven-year-old Nixon Henshaw and his father Chris are hoping to fill a trailer with soup this fall, continuing a family effort that has grown from about 120 cans in its first year to thousands of donations for veterans in need.



Chantelle de Jonge
MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore

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One Day. Big Community Spirit. See you there!

The Strathmore pair are organizing their fourth annual Soup for Soldiers campaign through Sammich Sycles. This year, they have set a goal of collecting 4,000 cans before delivering the donations to the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary on Nov. 10.

For Nixon, the reason behind the campaign is straightforward.

“It’s just what they did; (they served) to make us (a) free (country) and then I just think it’s a good cause to do it,” he said.

Chris said the campaign is their way of thanking service members past, present and future. While the family did not originate the cause, they have made it an annual tradition of their own.

The first year brought in approximately 120 cans, followed by just under 300 the next year. Last year, with support from customers, family, friends and the Strathmore community, the campaign collected 3,272 cans.

This year the Henshaws are aiming even higher. “Just 4,000, 5,000 will get a whole trailer loaded,” Chris said when discussing the goal and the amount of soup they hope to collect, he said the number was influenced by it being their fourth year for the campaign, so 4,000 cans for four years.

The campaign was already off to a strong start at the time of the interview with just over 600 cans collected.

Chris said the generosity of residents has been encouraging over the years. Businesses have contributed, but some of the most memorable donations have come from children arriving with just a few cans.

Nixon hopes the campaign will also encourage other young people to get involved in their communities. Asked why youth should take part in efforts like this, he said it is important to be a leader and set an example for those who are younger.

He also hopes the donations will remind veterans that their service is appreciated. If he had the opportunity to speak with a veteran about the campaign, Nixon said he would thank them for serving.

The family is keeping the collection process simple. Donations can be dropped off at Sammich Sycles, 79 A Slater RD or Chris can arrange to pick them up from residents who are unable to make it to the shop.

“They just come to the shop and just bring some soup over,” Nixon said. “Or we can go get it.”

The Henshaws are also planning collection days at Kinsmen Park or near the town office. Dates have not yet been finalized and will be shared through their Facebook page.

Although soup is the focus of the campaign, Chris said other non-perishable food and useful donations are welcome. The Veterans Food Bank of Calgary also operates a thrift store, and he has previously collected clothing and other items to



Super heroes helping real heroes, Nixon Henshaw (11) displays his Soup for Soldiers donations to date. Henshaw is in his fourth year of organizing the event along with his father Chris. The team has a goal of 4,000 donated items to be delivered Nov. 10.

Photo Courtesy of Chris Henshaw

pass along.

He said the need for support does not end after Remembrance Day or the Christmas season.

“You always think about it Christmas time, but it’s all year long that there’s food insecurity for people,” Chris said.

The family plans to deliver the donations on Nov. 10, the day before Remembrance Day. For Nixon, every contribution matters, regardless of its size.

“Every can we raise is one meal for one veteran,” he said.

Residents who would like to donate can visit Sammich Sycles or contact the shop at 403-901-4998. Chris can also be reached at 403-901-8069 to arrange pickup. Updates on collection dates and campaign progress will be posted on the family’s Facebook page.

Those who are unable to donate can still help by sharing the campaign with others. The Henshaws’ hope the community will once again come together to show veterans that their service has not been forgotten.

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Wheatland County prepares for Calgary 911 fire dispatch transition

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County is continuing preparations to move fire dispatch services to Calgary 911 while also working through concerns about radio coverage and safety warnings raised by local fire associations.

It was noted that the initial target date of Nov. 30 has been revised to Dec. 8 in order to get contracts signed.

Council received an update Sept. 8 on the transition, radio programming and the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System used by emergency responders.

Administration said work is underway with Calgary 911 and other technical partners to ensure dispatchers have accurate information about county roads, addresses, fire resources and response procedures.

Radio settings and communications between dispatch and firefighters are also being tested as part of the transition.

One issue being reviewed is radio channel scanning which allows a radio to monitor more than one assigned channel or talk group.

Administration said some fire associations have requested the feature, but adding it can be technically complicated and may place additional strain on the radio system.

The county is therefore reviewing it as part of the Calgary 911 transition rather than making changes separately.

Radio coverage generated considerably more discussion.

Portable radios issue an audible warning when they may be moving outside reliable coverage.

Administration acknowledged there have been

complaints that the warning tone can repeat and become disruptive, particularly when firefighters take radios home.

Some have asked whether the warning could be disabled. Administration advised against that.

Council was told that this is an important safety feature and it's the firefighter's primary link to dispatch, incident command and other crews when they're on an incident.

If a firefighter loses coverage, they could be unable to receive instructions, confirm their location or call for additional help. It was explained that there is an out-of-range tone that would warn them of that risk.

The county's position is that the feature should remain active.

Coverage testing has already taken place in parts of the county including the Rosebud area where radio communication has been a concern.

Administration said both handheld and vehicle mounted radios were tested. During the test, strong signals were reported through much of the area including inside buildings in Rosebud.

One out-of-range warning occurred in the far eastern portion of the county in a low-lying area near the Special Areas boundary.

Administration cautioned weather conditions were good during the test and radio performance can change because of weather, terrain and buildings.

Council also heard concerns from firefighters who take radios home because they want to hear dispatch information while travelling to the fire hall.

Reeve Scott Klassen said firefighters had explained they would rather listen to information through a radio than look at a phone while driving.

"They prefer not to be on a phone driving and seeing what's going on," Klassen said. "The last thing I want to have is somebody with a phone in their hand looking at something and hit a ditch or t-bone somebody when they're trying to help somebody else."

Administration said it is working with the provider of the county's notification application to explore possible improvements.

The county is also looking at practical ways to improve radio performance without removing safety features. Administration said the solution must preserve firefighter safety, be technically feasible and meet AFRRCS requirements.

Later in the meeting, council approved decommissioning and disposing of remaining equipment from the county's legacy VHF radio system. Some mobile radios removed from fire trucks have already been repurposed for Public Works.

Redland water servicing moves forward after lengthy debate over cost and fairness

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County is moving ahead with a framework that could bring municipal potable water to Redland, but not before council spent considerable time debating how much residents should pay and whether the process is fair.

Council approved Bylaw 2026-15 during its Sept. 8 regular meeting. The bylaw establishes a minimum threshold of five qualifying service connection requests before the county can begin construction of common water infrastructure in the hamlet.

Those five connections represent 50 per cent of the existing developed or partially-developed residential properties in Redland.

For a request to count toward the threshold, the landowner must submit an approved connection request and pay the applicable connection fee.

The fee was later set at \$27,659 under amendments to the county's master schedule of fees.

Much of council's discussion centred on whether residents should be required to pay the full amount before construction and what should happen if the eventual project cost comes in below the estimate.

Coun. Glenn Koester repeatedly questioned whether Redland residents were being treated the same as residents involved in other county water projects.

"Why in this case are we being so hard?" Koester asked.

Some of the councillors took issue with the possibility that the initial connection fees could result

in more money being collected than ultimately needed.

"I don't have a problem with the commitment part at all. It's the price," Koester said. "I want it for them to pay it at cost. I don't want the county to have an extra fund of money."

Another councillor argued the county needed firm financial commitments before proceeding.

"If they truly want it, they'll sign up for it and we can reconcile after," Reeve Scott Klassen said. "You know who hurts on this is the people that live there."

Council ultimately found a middle ground.

Administration was directed to return with a report following completion of the initial construction phase and present options for reconciling costs with landowners who paid the original connection fee if actual project costs are lower than anticipated.

"Let them pay cost," Koester said. "That's all I'm asking."

Later in the meeting, council approved a new 2026 capital project with a budget of \$1,189,475 for installation of Redland water infrastructure.

The money does not mean construction will begin immediately. Administration told council the budget will remain available until the required five paid connection requests are received.

If residents begin paying but the five-connection threshold is not reached within approximately one year, the bylaw includes provisions allowing the county to refund the connection fees.

Continued on Page 4

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. A young canine

8. North Carolina university

11. "Oddbod" actor Tom

13. Midway between northeast and east

14. A place to shop

15. Mysterious "Severance" family

16. Single Lens Reflex

17. Malaria

18. Informal loan organizations

20. Twitching

21. Holm oak

22. Willing to consent

25. In an early way

30. Stuck it out

31. Language in Ghana

32. Obtain

33. Ancient Greek currency

38. One point east (clockwise) of due north
41. Popular baseball movie

43. Group of islands

45. Church building

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott

50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

55. Thick piece of something

56. Breakfast food

57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent

59. Ancient Greek City

60. Bitterly regret

61. Don't forget it

62. Dishonorable man

63. Affirmative

64. "___ and flows"

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge-building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Lizard species

4. Turkish leader title

5. A way to bother

6. Blank

7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric

8. Sports broadcaster Ian

9. Popular whodunit board game

10. Alkali flats mineral

12. Large African antelope

14. It's delivered most days

19. Satisfy

23. Water soaked soil

24. Of a past era

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Ribonucleic acid

27. Doctor of Education

28. Coffee receptacle
29. Where rockstars work

34. International airport in Connecticut

35. Russian river

36. It's used to make cabins

37. OJ trial judge Lance

39. A means to persuade

40. Short poem

41. A way to begin hostilities with

42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

44. Joints

45. Blatted

46. Swedish rock group

47. Millisecond

48. ___ podrida: Spanish stew

51. Doctors' group

52. Trunk of a tree

53. Tattle

54. Metrical foot

58. ___ Angeles

STRATHMORE

TIMES

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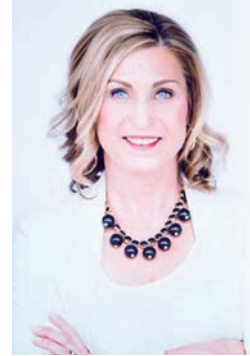
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Thought for the Week
~
Perhaps we should never miss an opportunity to be kind.

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Wheatland County backs call to preserve watershed restoration funding

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County will ask the province to reconsider the discontinuation of a watershed funding program used to support environmental projects on agricultural lands.

Council voted Sept. 8 to authorize the reeve to co-sign a letter with the agricultural service board chair regarding the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program.

Council heard the province is no longer expected to accept new applications under the program once existing commitments are completed.

The issue had previously been discussed by Wheatland County's Agricultural Service Board.

Administration brought a draft letter to council after the board requested municipal support for advocacy asking the province to continue the program.

The Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program has been used to support work intended to improve watershed

health and resilience.

During council discussion, the importance of the funding to local agricultural producers was highlighted.

"I just think it's important," Coun. Shannon Laprise said. "We have a lot of producers in the area who use that grant funding to protect our waterways, including Rosebud and Crowfoot creeks."

Laprise said losing the program could leave a gap for producers undertaking that type of work.

"It's a shame that the province is potentially or maybe already has wrapped up that program," Coun. Laprise continued. "I think it's worthwhile to send a letter just to express our disappointment or advocacy to do something else or something to replace it or whatever."

Council approved the motion authorizing the letter to be sent to Alberta's Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Redland water debate

Continued from Page 3

"The bylaw explicitly states that the county will not pay interest," administration told council when asked whether residents would receive interest while the county held their money.

Communication with residents also became an issue.

One councillor said some Redland residents he had spoken with did not know what was happening with the project.

The debate over fairness continued immediately afterward when council considered a \$184,000 budget for upgrades at the Speargrass Water Treatment Plant.

Council was told \$160,000 originally planned for 2027 would be moved into 2026. That prompted questions about why the Speargrass work could be funded from county reserves while Redland residents are expected to cover the cost of their new infrastructure.

Administration responded that existing utility systems and new servicing projects are treated differently and noted some established systems are not currently recovering their full costs through rates.

Council approved the Speargrass budget adjustment.

Strathmore water bills could jump \$16-\$17 a month in 2027

Continued from Page 1

"We're at a point now where between what has been shared with the regional municipalities and what the city knows on their end and combining it all together, they've given us a range," administration told council. "These rates are based on the middle of that range."

Administration said there is an estimated 85 to 90 per cent confidence that the final amount will fall close to what is currently being proposed.

Council also asked whether provincial assistance could eventually reduce the impact.

Administration said provincial relief appears unlikely in time for the town's 2027 budget, although any future financial contribution could be reflected through an annual reconciliation process between Calgary and Strathmore.

Administration said, "There was definitely some push back," when asked whether Strathmore challenged Calgary over the increase.

Council also revisited whether Strathmore could eventually build its own water treatment facility instead of purchasing water from Calgary.

Administration said that option would require significant land, raw-water storage, specialized staff and major capital investment.

The existing regional water line, built roughly 15 years ago, is also expected to have a much longer service life.

CAO Kevin Scoble compared abandoning that infrastructure early to replacing a relatively new vehicle before getting the full value from it.

Wiley summarized the issue by saying the alternative could ultimately cost residents considerably more.

"If we all think a \$16 or \$17 monthly increase due to Calgary's infrastructure deficiencies is a large amount, the amount we would see building our own water treatment facility is just incredibly more expensive," he said.

Administration also said the proposed rate structure places more of the increase on consumption rather than fixed charges, allowing residents who conserve water to have greater control over their bills.

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Drumheller RCMP increases traffic enforcement as detachment looks to put more officers on the road

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Traffic enforcement, drug investigations and efforts to keep officers out on the road were among the priorities highlighted by Drumheller RCMP during an update to Wheatland County council Sept. 8.

Detachment Commander Christian Lafleur told council officers issued 395 traffic tickets during the reporting period along with 26 warnings. Of those tickets, 213 were for speeding.

The detachment has also been using dedicated overtime traffic shifts, with officers brought in specifically to conduct enforcement. Lafleur said three overtime shifts resulted in approximately \$10,000 in fines.

RCMP also conducted three Check Stop operations with partner agencies including county peace officers and sheriffs along with two additional RCMP-only operations. The detachment recorded 10 impaired driving enforcement results during the quarter.

Drug enforcement was another focus.

Lafleur reported 43 search warrant and general enforcement activities relating to drugs and said several investigations remain active.

“We were successful in disrupting some of the drug operation,” he said.

RCMP also made 23 drug trafficking and possession arrests and completed 20 investigations connected to attempts to smuggle drugs into the Drumheller Institution.

Property crime enforcement has included nightly compliance checks on people sub-

ject to conditions such as curfews. Those checks resulted in 27 breach charges.

Targeted efforts to arrest people with outstanding warrants also resulted in 18 arrests. Rather than conducting broad sweeps Lafleur said officers are increasingly targeting individuals when police know where they are likely to be.

Fraud, Internet child exploitation and sextortion are also continuing concerns.

“Sextortion has been a big one. It seems to be on the rise,” Lafleur said.

The detachment has been providing public presentations on fraud and sextortion and Lafleur said cryptocurrency-related scams continue to appear.

Staffing was also discussed.

Lafleur said there are currently no vacancies among rural RCMP members assigned to the detachment although there is one municipal vacancy.

He is also proposing the addition of a sergeant position. The position could allow members to progress through the ranks without having to leave the area to gain experience elsewhere.

“I’d like to have continuity because most of the guys I have like it around here so much they don’t want to leave,” Lafleur said.

He said adding a sergeant would also allow the detachment’s two corporals to spend more time supervising officers in the field and taking files themselves.

That fits with a broader reorganization Lafleur said is intended to reduce the administrative work being handled by uniformed officers.



Helping hand
Sacred Heart Church welcomed the community to its Garage Sale and Open House Sept. 11-12, featuring bargains, a BBQ, baked goods and refreshments with proceeds supporting the church and its community outreach programs.
Melissa Piche Photo

Appreciation barbecue

Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Chantelle de Jonge was a guest at the Strathmore Happy Gang’s annual general meeting and appreciation barbecue on Sept. 4. MLA de Jonge joined members for an afternoon of conversation, food, fun and fellowship.

Photo Courtesy of the Office of MLA Chantelle de Jonge



Great deals
Strathmore’s annual Parade of Garage Sales returned Sept. 12 with residents around the community opening their garages and yards to bargain hunters searching for their next great find. Organizers and shoppers alike embraced the favourable weather as the popular annual event brought people out to browse, visit and explore sales throughout Strathmore.
Melissa Piche Photo



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Tough battle

It was a battle on the field when the Strathmore Badger peewee football team hosted the Innisfail Cyclones on Sept. 12 at the Crowther Memorial Junior High School field. Despite some really physical plays, the Badgers showed a lot of heart and determination en route to a tough loss at home.

Miriam Ostermann Photos

Badgers battle

The Strathmore Badgers bantam team battled hard during their home game against Stettler, with the two teams appearing well matched through the early stages of play. Despite a determined effort from the Badgers, low player numbers combined with injuries left the team unable to continue, resulting in a forfeit during the second quarter. Their next home game is a double header on Sept. 26 at the Crowther Memorial Junior High football field as the peewee team plays at 1 p.m., followed by the bantams up against Ponoka at 3 p.m.

Melissa Piche Photos



WHEATLAND
COUNTY

Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

September 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
October 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
October 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | ASB

For call-in details, access links, and agenda packages, please visit our website.
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Jordie was raised on a mixed operation in southern Alberta. Jordie has attended various courses on stockmanship, livestock marketing, soil and forage. Since 2006 Jordie has taken numerous courses with Hand 'n Hand Livestock Solutions with Whit Hibbard and Dawn Hnatow. Jordie spent 12 years sorting cattle in auction markets before moving to the southern United States to operate a cow/calf program.

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Rural schools targeted in Alberta education funding push

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Rural Alberta schools are receiving additional provincial funding aimed at addressing classroom complexity, staffing pressures and access to specialized services, while local Catholic schools in Strathmore say continued investment is helping them maintain student supports.

Education and Childcare Minister Demetrios Nicolaides said Alberta's education system has added more than 90,000 students over four years, putting pressure on classrooms, staffing and school space.

For rural communities, Nicolaides said one of the challenges is not simply adding staff, but ensuring smaller communities can access specialized professionals.

"I do recognize, though, that it can be a little bit more challenging to recruit staff in some of our smaller communities," Nicolaides said during a media roundtable.

The province has invested \$25 million for training and to help rural and remote school divisions cover additional costs associated with accessing specialized services.

In Strathmore, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools is seeing some of the same pressures being experienced elsewhere in the province, although its two local schools are currently fully staffed.

Cindy Nickerson, Director of Communications with Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, said teacher shortages continue to affect school divisions, including CTR.

"Teacher shortages are impacting most school divisions, and presents similar challenges for CTR. However, our two Catholic schools in Strathmore are fully staffed with committed teachers and support staff," said Nickerson.

Sacred Heart Academy and Holy Cross Collegiate have both experienced slight enrolment increases over the past few years, according to Nickerson,

but neither building is currently operating at full capacity.

Recent modernization work has also expanded and improved learning spaces including the music room and chapel at Holy Cross Collegiate and the gymnasium at Sacred Heart Academy.

Classroom complexity remains a major focus of the province's education spending.

Following the collection of information from 108,000 classrooms, in fall 2025, Alberta committed \$218 million to establish 699 classroom complexity teams. Nicolaides said 211 of those teams are in communities outside Calgary and Edmonton.

CTR has received both class size and complexity supports across the division, though Nickerson said the Strathmore schools did not receive those supports directly.

"We have received both class size and complexity supports for schools across the division," she said. "While our Strathmore schools did not receive these supports directly, we have and continue to ensure all of our schools are provided with the greatest possible resources for teacher allocations and other supports."

Nickerson said learning support teachers and Family School Liaison Workers are allocated to CTR schools, including those in Strathmore. The division also provides centralized therapy services for students requiring speech, occupational therapy or behavioural supports.

"Continued provincial investment in class size and complexity is beneficial to all of our schools, as it allows for increased individual support for students," she said.

Those specialized services are particularly significant in rural areas.

Nicolaides acknowledged that access to assessments and specialized professionals remains a challenge because of the limited number of qualified people available to conduct services such as psychoeducational and cognitive assessments.

Rural communities are also competing with rapidly growing urban centres for provincial school infrastructure dollars.

"We have a lot of growth in primarily our cities. And that's creating incredible demand for brand new schools in new communities that didn't exist yesterday," Nicolaides said. "But at the same time, we also have a lot of aging infrastructure."

The province's \$8.6-billion Schools Now program includes new construction as well as school modernizations and replacements. There are currently 156 active school projects across Alberta, with 43 located outside Calgary and Edmonton.

Nicolaides said school divisions submitted requests for more than 440 projects last year, while the province has the capacity to approve roughly 30 new projects annually.

In Strathmore, CTR is also preparing to expand programming at Holy Cross Collegiate through a new Practical Ranching School Collegiate.

The program is expected to begin after Christmas and will combine theoretical and hands-on ranching education with a focus on agricultural career development. The initiative is being developed through a partnership involving CTR, the Strathmore Agricultural Society and Lakeland College, with provincial support.

"We strive to meet the needs of our Strathmore community and are looking forward to starting our Practical Ranching School Collegiate to support agricultural career development for families in the Strathmore area," Nickerson said.

While Nicolaides pointed to new teachers, classroom supports and school projects as signs of progress, he acknowledged the province still has work ahead.

"Doesn't mean that all of the issues or challenges that we have in our education system are resolved or fixed," he said. "There's more work to be done, but I'm really confident and happy with the steps that we've taken to date and I know that they'll make a meaningful difference in the classroom."

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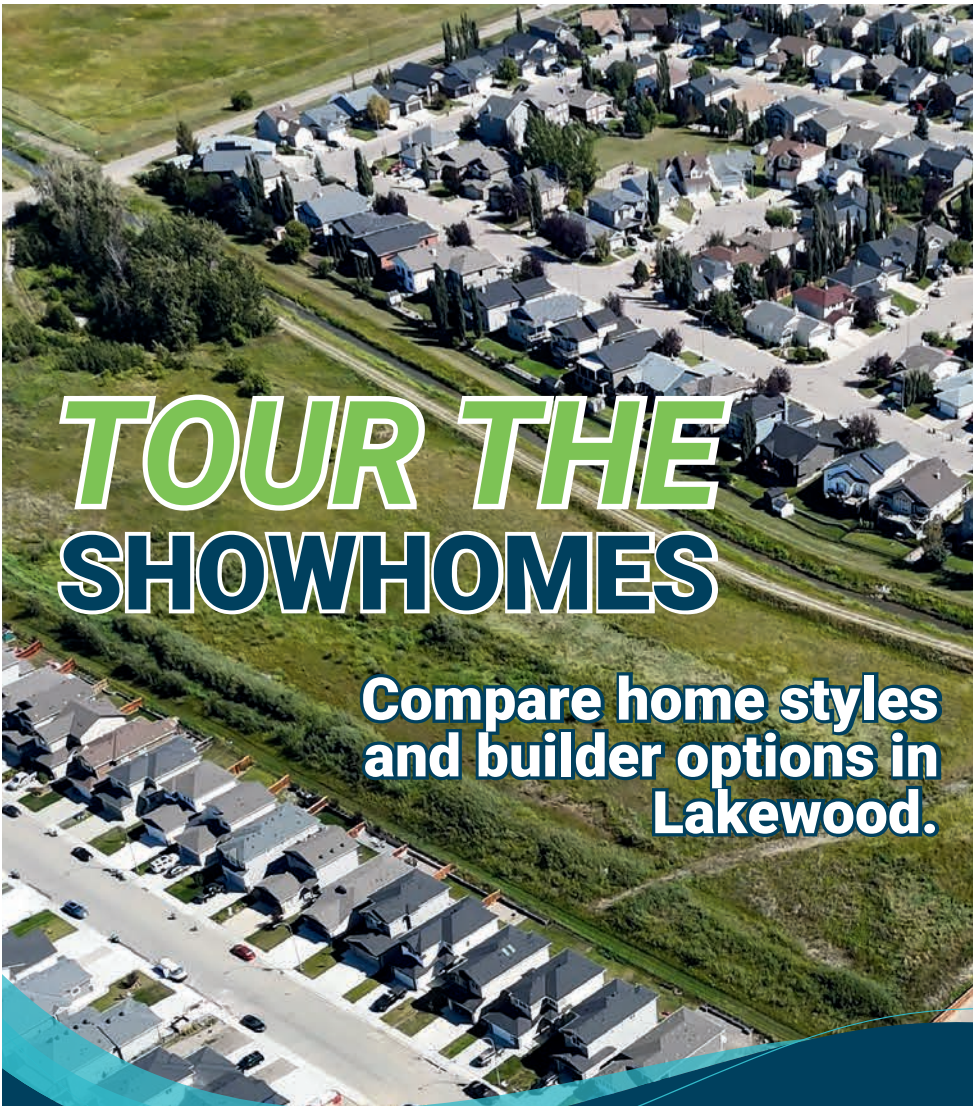
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Ribbon cutting

Wheatland Elementary School celebrated the start of the new school year with a Welcome Back BBQ on Sept. 9. The event also included a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school's new inclusive playground, which features accessible equipment and surfacing designed to make play more accessible for students with different mobility needs. The playground was funded through proceeds from a parent advisory council casino fundraiser.

Melissa Piche Photos



Dressed in 1920's attire, guests stepped back in time to celebrate the Joyland Theatre's 100th anniversary, paying tribute to the theatre's beginnings and century of entertainment.

Mellisa Crispin-Piche Photos

A century on the silver screen, the Joyland Theatre turns 100

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A century of movies, memories and popcorn was celebrated at Strathmore's Joyland Theatre on Sept. 13 when the town's historic theatre marked its 100th anniversary by taking moviegoers back to the silent film era.

Current owner Jeff Larsen and his wife Kathy hosted an invitation-only screening of Mantrap, the 1926 silent film starring Clara Bow that Larsen said was shown when the theatre celebrated its grand opening.

"My niece, Elaine Laweyssen, did some research digging, and she found the original ad from the Strathmore Standard from back in 1926 of the grand opening of the theatre," Larsen said. "It was Sept. 3, 1926 and the movie that opened the theatre was the old silent movie called Mantrap with Clara Bow."

Larsen tracked down a digital copy and decided it would be fitting to show the same film again nearly a century later.

"I thought, well, that'd be fun to, almost 100 years to the date, bring that back and run it in the theatre again,"

he said, giving guests a chance to "experience what it might have been like to be sitting in there 100 years ago watching a movie."

The evening included a short history of the Joyland and the people who owned it over the decades, along with wine, cheese and crackers, birthday cupcakes and naturally, popcorn.

The theatre has a particularly personal history for Larsen. His grandfather purchased it after arriving in Strathmore in 1950 and his father later took over the business.

After years away from his family the Joyland came full circle when Larsen and Kathy purchased it from long time owners Bill and Sheila Crispin in January 2014.

And the anniversary celebration may have offered a glimpse of things to come.

"People have been asking us for some time to bring back classic films and run them in the theatre," Larsen said.

The Larsens have started to talk about reinstalling film projectors in the projection booth, possibly allowing audiences to once again see classic movies the way generations before them did on film.



Building a strong province

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta's government is focused on protecting Alberta jobs, helping students develop strong skills, and building more affordable homes across the province. This week, our government launched a new portal for businesses to tell us directly how tariffs will impact them, expanded reading and math supports for students, and secured a major partnership that will help build nearly 1,500 affordable homes in Alberta.

Tariffs and counter-tariffs can raise costs, disrupt supply chains, and put Alberta jobs and investment at risk. That is why our government launched an online portal where Alberta businesses can tell us directly how U.S. tariffs and Canadian counter-tariffs are affecting their day-to-day operations. With more than \$152 billion in Alberta goods exported to the United States in 2025, even small changes in tariffs can have consequences for our province's businesses, jobs, and investments. Hearing directly from affected busi-

nesses will help our government understand where those pressures are being felt and respond accordingly. Our government will continue advocating for free and fair trade while ensuring our response reflects the realities facing Alberta businesses. Feedback can be provided at alberta.ca/tariff-related-resources-for-alberta-businesses. Alberta students continue to rank among the best in Canada and the world, and our government is making sure they can succeed. The latest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results show that Alberta students continue to perform among the best in Canada. Alberta ranked first among provinces in science and reading, and second in mathematics. At the same time, our government is expanding reading and math screenings to Grades 4 and 5 so teachers can identify students who are struggling and provide help earlier. We are investing \$20 million this school year, an increase of more than 60 per cent over last year, to identify students who need additional support in reading and math and help them succeed. Early results show that between 30 and 41 per cent of students who were previously identified as needing additional support were no longer identified that way when reassessed a year later. Parents will also receive their child's results, giving families a clearer picture of where their child is doing well and where extra help may be needed. More Albertans will have access to an affordable place to call home. Our government has partnered with Build

Canada Homes to invest more than \$385 million in 21 affordable housing projects across Alberta, creating at least 1,460 new homes. Alberta's government has already committed more than \$165 million in provincial funding toward these projects, while Build Canada Homes will provide up to \$220 million in additional grants and loans. Alberta-recommended projects will receive priority for federal funding, keeping local needs at the centre of these decisions. We are also working with Build Canada Homes to develop a coordinated application process so housing providers can spend less time navigating separate provincial and federal funding programs and more time building homes. Since 2021, our government has committed more than \$730 million through the Affordable Housing Partnership Program as we work toward supporting 25,000 more affordable households by 2031. Our government is listening to Alberta businesses, strengthening the foundations of student learning, and bringing more investment into our province to build the homes Albertans need. These investments will help strengthen our communities, support economic growth, and continue to drive Alberta's future forward. As always, please free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca). (Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)

Council seeks clearer rules for election signs in Strathmore

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore council is considering changes to its election sign rules following concerns and questions that surfaced during the 2025 municipal election. Proposed amendments to the town's election signs bylaw were presented during the Sept. 9 Committee of the Whole meeting. Administration said the changes are intended to bring the bylaw in line with provincial legislation while also providing clearer direction on sign placement. Administration told council that the most common concerns were regarding distance from the curb and distance from intersections. New maps are expected to be included to provide additional clarification. The proposed bylaw also reflects provincial changes that limit how municipalities can regulate signage during provincial elections and referendums. Council spent much of the discussion looking at whether several sections of the bylaw need clearer wording. Coun. Claude Brown raised concerns about election signs being placed near pedestrian crossings. "The last election there were a lot of signs that were placed right at crosswalks," he said. "It's a bit of a safety concern if you've got election signs right at a crosswalk." Brown suggested the town consider stronger language allowing signs near crosswalks to be removed quickly where they create a safety concern.

He also asked administration to clarify how the proposed 15 metre setback from intersections should be measured, particularly at curved corners. Administration said both issues could be reviewed before the bylaw returns to council. Coun. Melissa Langmaid raised several other concerns with the draft, including the proposed maximum height for election signs. The bylaw currently proposes that signs may not exceed 1.5 square metres in area or be more than one metre above ground level. Langmaid said there is some confusion on the size of election signs once they are in a frame. She suggested measuring the one metre height limit from the ground to the bottom of the sign instead of the top, which would allow signs to be placed on a frame without being installed excessively high. Council also discussed language preventing candidates from using town branding or imagery in a way that could imply municipal endorsement. Langmaid also questioned wording that said signs "should not" be placed near provincial or federal offices, suggesting stronger language would make enforcement clearer. "Should is a hard thing to actually comply with," she said. "It doesn't mean I can't. It just means I shouldn't." The proposed bylaw was not approved during the Committee of the Whole meeting. Administration is expected to consider council's feedback before bringing it forward for formal consideration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An anecdotal economic indicator

To the Editor
From my deck I have a clear view of the TransCanada Highway 300 metres away. Recently I've noticed that fewer semis seem to be going by – this while our tariff battle with the US administration has been accelerating. It doesn't require a data set to determine the negative effects of this mindless, illogical, and illegal attack on our sovereignty from the American administration. Unfortunately, the pundits, both American and Canadian, and unlike our PM, aren't calling it for what it actually represents – likely for fear of personal or corporate retribution from this President. In the eyes of Donald Trump, this attack is not only mindful and logical (if illegal),

it also represents his deliberate assault to crush the Canadian economy as part of his wider hegemonic scheme to create the United States of North America (Lake America - Gulf of America?) under American "democratic" rule, without shedding a drop of blood. The sooner Canada and its allies accept this "Trumpian Truth," the sooner we can begin to effectively counter it. While our PM, to his credit, is sowing the seeds internationally to gain support for exposing and pre-empting Trump and his plan, Alberta, it seems, may soon be voting in favour of folding rather than fighting!

Bob Mackan,
Strathmore

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Strathmore weighs new approach to recreation cost recovery

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore council is looking at whether the town should take a new approach to how much recreation users contribute toward the cost of operating local facilities.

The discussion came during council's Sept. 9 Committee of the Whole review of the proposed 2027 Fees Bylaw.

Administration is recommending no increase to recreation memberships and admissions for a second consecutive year, although some facility rental rates are proposed to increase.

Coun. Brent Wiley asked whether the town should develop a formal cost-recovery policy for recreation facilities.

"I do see a number of cons of us not having a cost recovery target," said Coun. Wiley.

He argued there can be fairness issues when recreation facilities are heavily subsidized through property taxes, particularly when some lower-income residents may not be able to afford to use those facilities in the first place.

Wiley said he was not advocating for facilities to become fully self-supporting.

"When I say cost recovery, we're not talking about 100 per cent cost recovery," he said; numbers more like 40-60 per cent is more along the lines of what he would feel is reasonable.

Coun. Matt Hyde commented about the rate freeze, saying it is a great idea and a nice gesture, but sustainability should be at the forefront of a decision.

Council cautioned that increasing cost recovery too aggressively could make recreation less accessible.

Administration said developing a for-

mal policy would require considerable work because increasing fees can also reduce the number of users.

CAO Kevin Scoble cautioned that setting an aggressive cost recovery target can also influence how facilities operate.

Administration said a draft cost recovery policy had been discussed during the previous council term and could be brought back for consideration.

Council also heard why recreation admission fees are being held steady again in 2027.

Administration said recreation membership sales are down for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic and the town is already somewhat high compared with comparable communities.

For example, council heard a one-month adult aquatic membership in Strathmore costs \$75.50, compared with \$56 in Brooks and \$78.81 in Airdrie, which has significantly more amenities.

"We feel that might be a little bit high," administration said. "So, these two back-to-back years of 0 per cent increase is letting us get caught up in our market comparison research and where we feel we should be aligned within the market."

Wiley said he appreciated the explanation but was concerned that keeping rates frozen for too long could eventually result in a sharp increase.

The cost recovery discussion is not expected to affect the upcoming 2027 budget directly. Administration indicated a more detailed review could instead be completed in time for a future budget cycle.

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary



PETERSON, Cheryl Grace

Cheryl Grace Peterson passed away peacefully on August 24, 2026, in Calgary, Alberta at the age of 74.

Cheryl was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by her husband Doug Peterson, her children Tracey and Kevin and daughter in law Lauren. Cheryl will be deeply missed by her grandchildren Wyatt and Nolan, as well as her brother William Cole and niece Lynne Noble.

Cheryl is predeceased by her parents William and Beatrice Cole.

A celebration of Cheryl's life will be held at a later date.

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COMING EVENTS

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Bob & Joan Larsen

Is your cellphone spying on you?

BBB RELEASE

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning residents of Alberta of a recent string of malware infections on refurbished cellphones.

"There have been reports in recent months of consumers buying refurbished cellphones and later discovering there is spyware installed," says Mary O'Sullivan-Andersen, President and CEO of BBB Serving Alberta and East Kootenay. "Some of these devices being purchased also have data left over from a previous owner, or worse, so-called sideload apps that have been installed to avoid the official apps security. This can lead to cyberattacks, stolen data and an opportunity for scammers to access the consumer's most private and important data including banking and credit card information."

The BBB has some tips when buying a used cellphone;

- Avoid buying online highly discounted cellphones from outlets with no proven history or track record.
- Complete a factory reset when purchasing a refurbished cellphone.
- Purchase from an established manufacturer that has a certified refurbishment program and clear warranty.
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TENDER

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Kathy Marie Adams, owner of NW 34-23-26 W4M (132.20 acres), is seeking unconditional offers to purchase all of this property, such offers to be submitted by tender on a Tender Terms form as described below.

Located 1 mile Southwest of Cheadle, Alberta, the 132.20 acre parcel consists of cultivated land. There are no grain bins or buildings on the property. The property generates surface lease revenue of approximately \$8,550.00 per year at current rental rates. To arrange a viewing of the property, contact Kathy Adams at: kathyadams32@ymail.com.

Conditions of Tender:

Prior to 5:00 p.m., Alberta time, on September 25, 2026, sealed tenders, marked "Adams Tender", on a completed Tender Terms form, together with a certified cheque or bank draft payable to "Walsh LLP, in trust" as a deposit for an amount equal to 5% of the tendered purchase price, must be submitted to:

Eric D. Dalke
c/o Walsh LLP
2800, 801 6th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4A3.

A Tender Terms form can be obtained from Eric D. Dalke: 403-267-8454 or email: edalke@walshaw.ca. The deposit will be returned to the unsuccessful tenderers. A tender must be submitted on a completed Tender Terms form or the tender will not be considered. On acceptance of a tender by the owner, the Tender Terms will form a binding contract with the successful tenderer.

Details of submitted tenders will not be made public. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. Tenderers whose tenders have not been accepted shall be notified on or before **October 2, 2026**. The successful tenderer shall be notified by telephone, fax or email on or before 5:00 p.m. on **September 29, 2026** of the acceptance of the tendered offer. The latest date for closing shall be **October 20, 2026**.

GET YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE TIMES! Call 403-934-5589

Congratulations

Amy Jaquish

of Okotoks has been
chosen as the winner
of the C.A. MacLean
Local Journalism
Grant, in recognition
of her award-winning
essay on the current
challenges facing
local news outlets.



Pictured: AWNA and C.A. MacLean director
Amanda Zimmer (left) presents Amy
Jaquish with a cheque for \$2,000.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

October 7, 2026 | 6 p.m.
October 14, 2026 | 6 p.m.
October 21, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Council
Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

Your trash, someone's treasure.
Trash to Treasure Returning.

Trash to Treasure (TTT) Days is back for September 10 to 13. This is a great time to let your unwanted items become someone else's beloved items prior to the Heavy Item Garbage collection.

Donators:

- Mark your unwanted but reusable items with an HIG tag and place at same location you would place items for HIG collection.
- At the end of the Trash to Treasure Days remove any items you want to keep.
- Leave items out that you want collected during HIG week.

Collectors:

- Take only items marked with a HIG tag.
- Respect others' properties.
- Do not discard unwanted items on another resident's lawn.

For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/WasteCollection

Heavy trash? We got ya covered.
Heavy Item Garbage Returning.

Heavy Item Garbage (HIG) collection returns the week of September 14 to 18. HIG offers residents the opportunity to dispose of large residential waste, and is provided in conjunction with your curbside waste collection service. If you pay the residential garbage charge on your Town of Strathmore utility bill the HIG service is available to you.

Place all items at your regular garbage pickup location by 7 a.m. on September 14th and affix with an HIG sticker. Stickers are available for free at the Strathmore Municipal Building but must be picked up prior to September 14th. HIG stickers will not be handed out the week of HIG.

Learn more about HIG or TTT at Strathmore.ca/HIG

Join our team.
Career opportunities available.

Are you looking for a new opportunity? The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments.

- Contract Group Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- Seasonal Parks Operator (Fall/Winter)

Check out Strathmore.ca/Careers for more information about current opportunities and discover your bright future with the Town of Strathmore.

Students are back!
Back-to-School Safety Reminders

With students returning to school, Strathmore residents are encouraged to stay alert and help keep our roads safe. Slow down in school zones, watch for children at crosswalks, and avoid distractions while driving.

Remember to follow crossing guards and school bus signals. When a school bus has its red lights flashing and stop arm extended, drivers must stop and remain stopped until the lights stop flashing and the arm is retracted. A little extra patience and attention can help ensure everyone arrives safely to and from school this year.

Sports Centre Court Feasibility Study.
Community Feedback Wanted!

We're studying what to do with undeveloped court space at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre.

It's currently a concrete pad. We want this space to become a valuable recreation space for the community and help meet your needs.

We're exploring possibly developing it into a multi-use court space for sports like basketball, pickleball, volleyball and other recreation or community activities..

No decision has been made at this point. We first need to gather more information – such as community feedback and estimated costs – so Council can make an informed decision.

Share your thoughts:

- Take the survey – Sept 8 to 21.
- Drop into the Open House – Sept 17, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Visit Strathmore.ca/CourtStudy to learn more.

2026-2027
Waste Collection Schedule

The new waste collection schedule for the 2026-2027 year is available.

Black Carts: Weekly pick-up year round.

Green Carts: Weekly pick-up May through October, biweekly November through April.

Blue Carts: Biweekly pick-up year round.

For more information about our waste collection schedules, routes, and important dates, visit: Strathmore.ca/WasteSchedule.

Fall Registration Open!
Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre Fall programming is now open!

Looking for ways to stay active, learn something new, or keep the kids engaged this fall? We've got something for everyone!

Registration opened on August 4 for our exciting lineup of fall programs, including:

- Cardio & Strength
- Seniorcise
- Stay & Play
- School Closure & PD Day Camps
- Mini Sport Adventure
- Mini Movers
- Yoga & Stretch

Whether you're looking to build strength, improve flexibility, stay connected with your community, or keep your little ones active and having fun, our fall programs are designed to help you make the most of the season.

For more information about programs and activities, visit: Strathmore.ca/SMPSportsCentre

Maintenance Notice.
Aquatic Centre closed for annual maintenance.

Every fall, the Strathmore Aquatic Centre closes for a few weeks to complete its annual maintenance shutdown. This important work helps keep the facility clean, safe, and operating efficiently for swimmers and visitors throughout the year.

This year's shutdown started on August 17, 2026, and includes a variety of maintenance projects such as replacing chemical lines, cleaning filters and replacing filter sand, repairing pool tiles, servicing valves, and completing maintenance on the waterslide and steam room.

Additional facility upgrades include replacing fire sprinkler heads in the pool area, performing boiler maintenance, and completing electrical system work.

There's a lot happening behind the scenes during this closure, all with the goal of keeping the Aquatic Centre in top condition. Watch for progress updates throughout the shutdown.

For more information, contact the Aquatic Centre at 403-934-3325.

New Addition.

Blue Recycle Carts Coming Soon.

Starting **October 1, 2026**, blue carts will be available to Strathmore residents for curbside recycling collection, with more accepted materials and single-stream collection. **(no sorting required!)**

A photograph showing three recycling carts parked on a grassy area. From left to right, there is a black cart, a green cart with the number '118 # 0002860' and the word 'Strathmore' on it, and a blue cart with a white recycling symbol. The blue cart is in the foreground and is slightly angled towards the right.